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Probe Could Damage CIA, Agency Official Says Here

The deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) said here today that recent congressional investigations of the agency were "like rummaging through the garbage of history" and have the potential of damaging the nation's intelligence operations.

The deputy director, Vernon A. Walters, however, said the CIA "will live with" the investigations because the United States requires that its intelligence arm be responsible to elected representatives.



WALTERS

Walters said congressional investigators are charging us "with things that happen in the 1950s and 1960s."

Walters spoke at a meeting of the Executive Breakfast Club, a group of young businessmen, at Stouffer's Hotel.

Walters refused to answer questions from reporters.

He conceded that the CIA had been involved in the planning of assassinations and experiments with drugs and poisonous toxins.

He noted, however, that the investigations showed no evidence that any planned assassinations were carried out.

There have been "some kooks and nuts" in the CIA and overzeal and misjudgments by agents of the CIA since the agency was organized 27 years ago, Walters said.

"But they're been very few and far between," he said.